

Spring 2024



Community, quilting, perfect patchwork for life

It's hard to miss the pride Delphie Norberg feels for the Meadows Community Club, her quilting partners and the joy of Tuesday mornings spent together.

Since 1998, Delphie and the other local ladies have been meeting at the hall Tuesday mornings to make quilts they donate to those in need, and they've donated more than 2,000. Does she make it every week?

"I do," Delphie smiles.

"I have to get a ride. There's lots of good times here."

The oldest member of the quilting club is Joan Pchajek who's 92. Delphie's a close second, saying she's "91 and a third".

When the club first started, they met Tuesday mornings from September to April.

"But that only lasted a couple of years. And then we said, 'oh, well, whoever can come during the summer...and everybody always came,'" says Katie Hoas.

"If you're busy, you don't come, but there's always someone there every week."

Hoas misses a few Tuesdays in the winter these days, opting for sunshine instead, but a healthy group is there in her absence. Dolores Norberg, Delphie's daughter-in-law, says the familiar faces around the table on this particular Tuesday in March have done a lot of quilting and shared a lot of coffee.

"All of these people have been here for eons. I've been coming here for...30 years. But it's another outlet. It is a get together. You don't have to go all the way to the city, you don't have to go all the way to Stonewall. You just go to the hall, it's central," Dolores says.

"And everyone is welcome. If you just want to come for coffee, that's fine. We have coffee at 10:30 and everyone is welcome to come."

The number of quilts they've made and donated is staggering. Most go to the Mennonite Central Committee, which in turn sends them



A photo from a few years back, 2016, of the Tuesday morning quilters, left to right, Pearl, Eileen, Ann, Judy, Delphie, Marianne, Henny, Margaret, Katie, Dolores, Joan. The quilt they are holding was a gift to Katie, after a house fire. Below, Delphie enjoying her morning with the girls this March.

where they're needed around the world. Many have gone to the Stonewall Project Linus group and recently some were sent to Ukraine.

It may have started as a quilting club, but the ladies are well aware what it has evolved into.

"It's much more than quilting. You talk about family, you get to know each other's family really well," Hoas said.

"We've had members that have been ill and people that pass away, and we just support. I think it's something that women do."

Case in point – Pchajek suffered a fall and hasn't been able to come for a while, but she's still very much a member.

"She hasn't come since the summer, but we still treat her as a member," Hoas said.

Delphie shared a bit of the hall's history, pointing out the framed registration certificate from 1936 that hangs on the wall.

"I don't think there are many community clubs that are older than that, that have been operating for that long. It's amazing," she says.

"But there's none of the old



timers left."

The quilting club is no doubt making the club's forefathers proud, sending quilts to those in need and hosting a fall supper to help pay the bills.

The ladies are considering doing another quilt raffle this fall, to help with costs of material and they're always hopeful people will keep them

in mind if they have some material – cotton specifically – to donate.

"There's a lot of people that have a lot of fabric probably sitting in the bottom of a drawer someplace," Hoas said.

"We would take that as a donation."

If you're free next Tuesday morning, the ladies would love to see you.

Grant's Lake a birds' paradise amidst farmers' fields

There's a hidden gem nestled in the RM of Rosser, and when we say hidden, we may be understating more than a little.

You can access Grants Lake from Road 4 West, ½ mile south of Road 72N. You could easily drive by and never know it. But the important thing is ducks and geese and other wildlife know where it is, and they show up yearly.

"The lake is mainly known to waterfowlers as a game bird refuge," says Dave Nichol, a former Rosser councillor, Rosser resident and a man with a very personal connection to Grant's Lake.

"It is used by ducks and geese in the fall as a staging area prior to making their way southward as late fall freeze-up occurs across the prairies."

It was Nichol's great, great, uncle, Donald Henderson, who owned the land and when he passed away it was donated to the province to ensure it remained untouched and converted to a game bird refuge. Donald, also a lifelong waterfowl hunter, wanted to keep the refuge protected for future generations.

Years ago Ducks Unlimited did some work to create streams, or channels, that run out from the centre of the lake, but the area has been mostly ignored by its new owners over the years.

While Nichol laments that fact, he says it's still an incredible place to connect with nature. He says it's like Oak Hammock, just a much smaller version of it, and of course, not maintained to the level of its larger relative.

"There is a berm and a walking path that was built on the west side of Grant's Lake at the water control structure," he said.

"It is an incredible place to connect with nature and is a great place to canoe in during the springtime before it becomes grown in with algae and weeds come summertime. A canoe ride down any of the channels and the main body of water always allows the visitor to see many different species of birds, notably the nesting waterfowl that call the lake home for much of the year.

Nichol canoes in the lake every spring, which is the best time because the water levels typically drop after that.

"It's not necessarily a lake, it's more of a slew or a marsh so there's channels dug in that property. There's quite an open area once you get out into the middle of the marsh," he said.

"Grant's Lake is more of a



Grant's Lake is a nature-lover's paradise right here in Rosser. It provides opportunities for bird watching, and in spring, canoeing. It's surrounded by crops, including a lure crop that Nichol looks after.

marsh, relying upon runoff from winter snowmelt, rainwater, and having a portion of earthen dyke removed temporarily in the springtime to allow water to flow in from a drainage ditch running adjacent to it. This keeps the lake at a sustainable water level as it is normally quite shallow in spots, and no deeper than six feet in most places when the lake is full."

Grant's Lake is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) in Manitoba and for those who truly enjoy nature, it's a great find. An article from 2014 on the IBA website reveals the writer's awareness of the neglect but also his joy with its beauty and role in nature.

"Somewhat difficult to locate down backroads half-an-hour-or-so North-West of Winnipeg, signage is sparse – the main welcoming sign, which signifies the site as a Wildlife Management Area, is toppled over alongside a waterway at the edge of the site. Luckily for us, birds don't visit IBAs for their infrastructure," the writer says.

He comments of the lake's shrunken size over the years, and enthuses about its very suitable landscape for its intended visitors:

"The area is a hotspot for waterfowl, especially migrating Canada and Snow Geese, the two trigger species for this IBA.

"Even from just within the edges of the IBA, barely beyond the managed hunting area that surrounds the site, we were able to view a wide array of waterfowl and other interesting bird species. The site was rife with Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, as well as many waterfowl species such as Mallards, Blue-Winged Teals, Northern Shovelers, and Canada Geese, along with some goslings. The Geese were especially noticeable due to a large amount of boisterous honking that seemed

waterfowl and other birds. He looks after an approximately 50-acre field that serves as a lure crop for the birds, and he's always happy to hear there are folks who make the trek out to witness Mother Nature at her finest.

"It's really a beautiful spot in there, once you get into the channels on your canoe. It supports a ton of wildlife, there's a ton of waterfowl. It's a great asset to the municipality in my estimation or in my opinion," Nichol said.

"If you want to get close to nature and not be around a bunch of other people and be in a manicured setting, it's an ideal place."

To read the full story on the IBA website, go to:

<https://importantbirdareas.mb.ca/2014/06/12/grants-lake-and-oak-hammock-marsh-iba-trip-report/>

to be coming from the centre of the IBA."

Nichol couldn't agree more about the beauty of the spot and its important role as a temporary home to so many

List of 2023 Municipal Grants and Donations:

The RM of Rosser supported many local groups and organizations in 2023. Below is a list of the amounts and the groups funded.

- Community Re-Source Network - \$8,000
- Grosse Isle Heritage Site - \$6,000
- Grosse Isle Recreation Club - \$18,250
- Interlake Community Foundation - \$5,500
- MADD Canada - \$299
- Manitoba Crime Stoppers \$210
- Manitoba Farm Women's Conference - \$700
- Marquette Curling Club - \$13,500
- Meadows Community Club - \$11,500
- Red River Basin, Fish Dinner Donation - \$595
- RM of Woodlands, Warren Arena Insurance - \$18,607.65
- Rosser Community Club - \$43,250
- South Interlake 55 Plus Inc. - \$2,500
- South Interlake Regional Library - \$27,216.11
- South Interlake Rockwood Agricultural Society - \$9,000
- South West Palliative Care Inc. - \$6,623.80
- STARS Shock Trauma Air Rescue - \$5,400
- Stonewall & District Christmas Cheer Board - \$500
- Stony Mountain Community Association - \$500
- Vintage Locomotive (Prairie Dog Central) - \$2,100

Have a story to share? e-mail info@rmofrosser.com

Growing with STARS looking to grow in Rosser

Most of us are familiar with the STARS air ambulance service, which transports those in need of critical care to hospital. Many of the patients are in rural or remote locations, not close to a medical centre.

The time saved with the helicopter, along with the medical equipment and highly skilled crew on board, can mean the difference between life and death for patients.

STARS has a program aimed at farmers called Growing for STARS. It was inspired by the generosity of a family that planted 40 acres of soybeans and donated the proceeds to STARS. Their good deed spread across the fields to neighbouring farmers who asked how they could help out as well.

Angele Cuthbertson, Donor Relations & Development with the STARS Manitoba Foundation, says the program is growing in popularity. There are some Hutterite colonies in Manitoba that are



One farmer's good deed turned into the Growing with Stars program, aimed at allowing farmers to support the STARS air ambulance.

donating already. "It's big in Saskatchewan and we're now getting the word out here in Manitoba to let farmers know about it," Cuthbertson said.

"We're hopeful that once more farmers are aware of it, they'll come on board."

The program is simple, you sign up on the STARS website or reach out to Cuthbertson directly and pledge a

certain number of acres to Growing for STARS. After harvest, the money earned from those acres is donated to the program.

"This would also work with livestock the same way. A farmer would pledge X number of cattle and once those cattle are sold, they would donate those pledged cattle funds to STARS," Cuthbertson said.

"We issue the farmer a Business Tax Receipt for their donation. We also provide Growing for STARS signage that the farmer can proudly display on their field."

Anyone interested in signing up can go to stars.ca/growing

Cuthbertson can be reached at acuthbertson@stars.ca

Looking back - Grosse Isle School



This photo shows the students of Grosse Isle School in 1933. We have most of the names, but some are unknown. We hope you enjoy this photo and if you know the names of those we have listed as unknown, please let us know. Email us at info@rmofrosser.com.

Back row, left to right, Victor Touton, Arthur Daniels, Billy Daniels, Robert Daniels, unknown, Herbie Tyler and Bill Rutherford.

Middle row, Edith Bear, Doris Mernett, Peggy Rutherford, Lena Touton, Winnie Eling.

Two boys standing, Murray Rutherford and Emil Touton.

Front row, Willie Work, Bob Miller and unknown.

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF **ROSSER**

Enroll in **Rosser Connect!** You will receive emails, texts or phone calls from the RM of Rosser with important information like road closures, upcoming meeting dates and more.

Rosser Connect will send information on emergency situations should they arise and will even inform residents about things like train movements that may impact them.

Signing up is free and will keep you informed about everything important in the RM of Rosser.

Sign up for Rosser Connect now at www.rmofrosser.com or scan the QR code below.



If you're already signed up, you can scan the code to change your preferences.

Trivia time

Who was the first to be elected to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly from the RM of Rosser?

In 1959, Rosser-born and raised George Hutton defeated incumbent Liberal candidate, the Honourable Robert W. (Bobby) Bend in the general election, held on May 14, to become the MLA for the Rosser Iberville Constituency. Progressive Conservative Party MLA George Hutton was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Conservation by Premier Duff Roblin. He retired from politics after serving seven years.

Answer: George Hutton

Message from Reeve Ken Mulligan

Spring is upon us, and it's an exciting time for the RM. Public Works starts the spring season by gravelling and applying dust control.

Also in spring, our plan is to do an experiment where we select one road within the RM and apply different types of gravel to determine which type works best. We have also begun building a temporary public works/firehall in the CentrePort area. This will be used instead of renting our current facility, which will positively impact our finances. We are hoping that this building will be ready to move into by Christmas this year.

We continue to develop a drainage plan for the entire RM, including CentrePort. Over the last couple of years we have already completed the cleanout of the Second Creek catchment area. The RM has hired an engineering consulting company to give us elevations and modelling using Lidar readings to assist us in making the best decisions for drainage during the future build out of the remaining areas of CentrePort, including the Rail Park.

As well, we are working on the areas north and northwest of the Perimeter Highway, using the same technology, to improve our drainage planning in these areas. Last year, we began cleaning up trees and shrubs growing in our ditches that affect drainage and visibility. In some cases, the trees have become quite obstructive and have made it dangerous for pets, wildlife and people entering onto the roads with oncoming traffic. We plan to continue the clean up this year. Even though we are removing trees that affect drainage and visibility, the RM has applied through the East Interlake Watershed District to obtain 1,000 trees, which will be planted at already identified municipal properties this



Reeve Ken Mulligan read to students at Rosser Elementary School as part of I Love to Read month in February. He also answered questions about the municipality.

year.

Development has continued in the CentrePort area, with the latest interest being shown along Mollard Road & Route 90, and at CentrePort Way & Hwy 221. The final phase of Brookport 4 is also under construction this year, which will complete that entire subdivision. Lots are continuing to be sold and constructed in developments around the Klimpke Road & Red Fife area.

With the CentrePort Canada Rail Park development also commencing, the first building, owned by Fastrate is amid construction. There has been a great deal of interest from others wishing to build within the Rail Park, so we are excited to see this development grow. On a side note, with all the added work in the municipality, we find it

necessary to hire more staff, which means we need more workspaces. Therefore we have decided to obtain some office space in the CentrePort development, next to the current SIPD CentrePort office on Davis Way. Staff there will be able to speak to the public on RM matters at the SIPD office. We expect that space to be ready in the summer or fall.

The RM is pleased to be able to assist, with financial support, the outdoor skating rink and volleyball court located in Grosse Isle. We hope that everyone makes good use of this facility and supports it when needed. We are also looking forward to working alongside the Grosse Isle residents to develop the second phase of the walking paths. In ad-

dition, to assist all our recreation clubs and sites, the RM has created and filled a new Recreation Facilitator position. We are excited to continue the growth of recreation throughout our entire municipality.

In late February, I had the pleasure of reading to the students at Rosser Elementary School and I enjoyed all of their questions about municipal activities within our RM. I had indicated to them that they are our future and possibly someday some of them may either work for the RM or be on Council.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable spring and summer, and once again, I thank all of you who put in that extra effort to keep the RM of Rosser looking respectable for all to enjoy.

GROSSE ISLE OUTDOOR RINK

LEGACY DONATIONS

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Name recognition on permanent sponsorship board
Tax receipt
\$100 - \$249

BRONZE DONATION

Name recognition on permanent sponsorship board
Tax receipt
Group social media shout-out
\$250 - \$499

SILVER DONATION

Name recognition on permanent sponsorship board
Tax receipt
Group social media shout-out
\$500 - \$999

GOLD DONATION

Name recognition on permanent sponsorship board
Tax receipt
Individualized social media shout-out
\$1,000 - \$4999

PLATINUM DONATION

Name recognition on permanent sponsorship board
Tax receipt
Individualized social media shout-out
Grand opening ribbon cutting participation/Photo inclusion
\$5,000 +



In April the RM of Rosser received the 2023 Manitoba Good Roads Association Municipalities Shield for the best maintained system of municipal roads in rural municipalities – District 1. Above, left to right, Brad Saluk, Vice President - Association of Manitoba Municipalities, Rosser Reeve Ken Mulligan, Coun. Kelvin Stewart, Jeff Harris, Rosser Public Works Foreman and Coun. Angela Emms. Photo courtesy Sandy Black.